

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 08087 301102Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01

SAM-01 /077 W

----- 014779

R 301010Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0821

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 8087

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JA, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN VISIT TO JAPAN: MORE ON PROSPECTS FOR AID

REF: TOKYO 16737

1. DURING CALL OF EMBOFF ON JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KAWASAKI SEVERAL FURTHER POINTS OF INTEREST MADE RE JAPANESE AID TO AFGHANISTAN.

2. KAWASAKI DID NOT MENTION HELMAND RIVER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BUT SPOKE OF AFGHAN INTEREST IN JAPANESE TELEVISION, RAILWAY TECHNOLOGY AND A MICROWAVE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. ALL ARE HELD UP, HE SAID, BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, BUDGETARY STRINGENCIES WHICH WILL PREVAIL UNTIL BEGINNING OF NEW FISCAL YEAR APRIL 1, 1975. AFGHANS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN RAILWAY SYSTEM, FOR WHICH THEY ASKED JAPANESE TO DO FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR PROJECT EVENTUALLY TO BE FUNDED BY IRANIAN AID MONEY.

(NOTE: KAWASAKI ADDED THAT JAPANESE ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN NEGOTIATING WITH IRAN FOR PROVIDING HIGH SPEED RAILROAD EQUIPMENT FOR SERVICE ON MAJOR LINES TEHRAN TO TABRIZ AND MESHEH.) ON LEARNING JAPANESE EFFORTS CANNOT BEGIN UNTIL
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PAGE 02 KABUL 08087 301102Z

APRIL 1975 AFGHANS "TOOK THEIR BUSINESS TO THE FRENCH"

ACCORDING TO KAWASAKI. FYI - EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED
FRENCH RAILWAY OFFICIAL HAS BEEN TO KABUL AND IS CONSIDERING
TECHNICAL/FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR RAILROAD. END FYI. HE
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WHETHER FRENCH RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO
THIS, BUT HAD HEARD NOTHING HIMSELF.

3. KAWASAKI SAID NO JAPANESE ASSISTANCE NOW BEING GIVEN
AFGHANISTAN, THE TWO MILLION DOLLAR JAPANESE PROJECT TO PROVIDE
PIPED WATER IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF, KANDAHAR, HERAT AND KUNDUZ
HAVING BEEN COMPLETED. HE SPOKE OF LACK OF CONTRUCTION
COMPETENCE HERE AND THE ENORMOUS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ENCOUN-
TERED IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. GOJ, IT APPEARS, IS NOT
ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BEGINNING A NEW ONE.
ELIOT

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